

Lawrence S. Wittner's "Spinning Illusions: The Anti-American Left and the Ukraine War" - A New McCarthyism

A response

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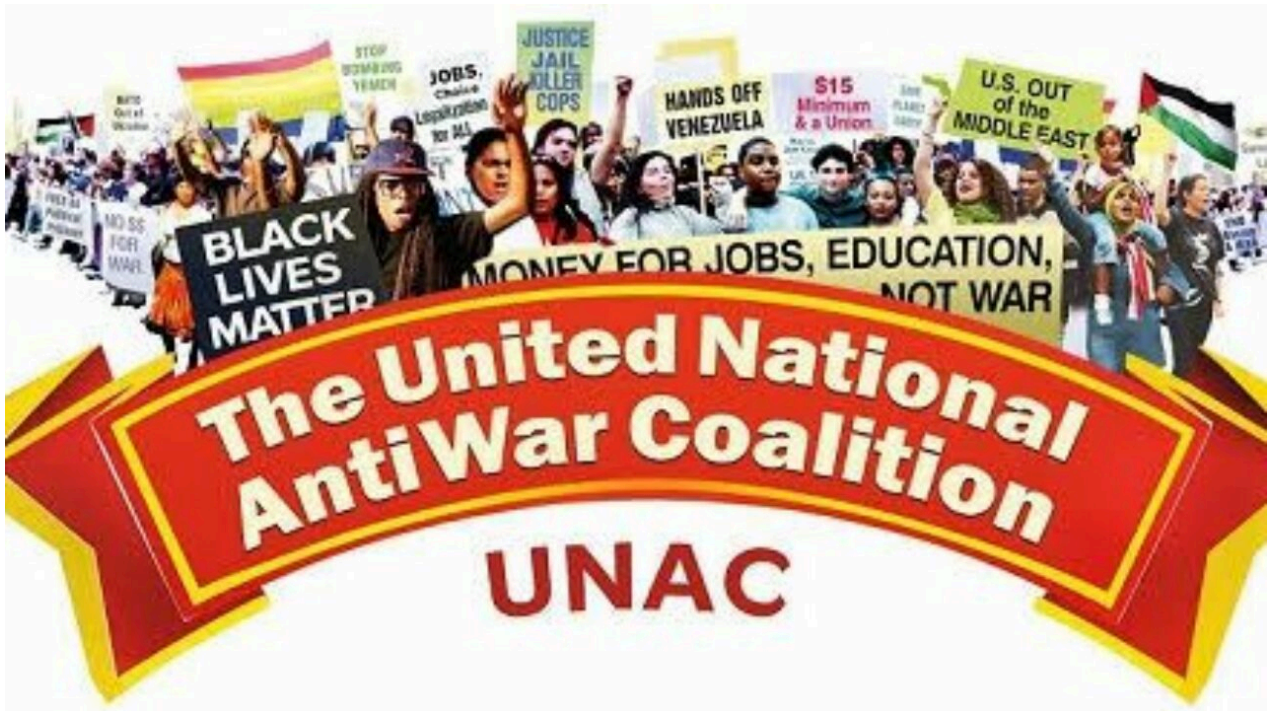
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Recently articles have appeared on the front page of the New York Times that try to smear Code Pink, The People's Forum and TriContinental as Chinese agents. The Times article was followed by a statement from Senator Marco Rubio calling for investigation of the people mentioned in the article.

Another article using similar McCarthyite tactics, by Lawrence S. Wittner, appeared in CounterPunch, Foreign Policy in Focus and The Daily Kos. Each are considered "progressive" publications. This attack uses the exact terminology of HUAC - the House on Un-American Activities Committee. Wittner's attack is titled: "Spinning Illusions: The Anti-American Left and the Ukraine War"

The article targeted the United Antiwar Coalition - UNAC, International Action Center, Code Pink, The Peace in Ukraine Coalition. UNAC and IAC are called "campists" and "anti-American."



These attacks are designed to silence critics of the U.S. at a time that we are seeing an escalating U.S. / NATO war in Ukraine and as the U.S. continues its aggression towards another nuclear power, China.

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Lawrence S. Wittner's article, "Spinning Illusions: The Anti-American Left and the Ukraine War" is a throwback to McCarthyism, replacing analysis with name-calling. It attacks the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), naming Sara Flounders, an organizer of UNAC and the International Action Center. Also attacked was Code Pink, accusing all of us as being "Campists." This is an old term, a slur, against those who dare to take sides in the international class struggle.

The article's title accuses those named as being "The Anti-American Left." Sounds like Wittner is resurrecting HUAC - the House Un-American Activities Committee, that destroyed peoples' lives in the 1950s and early 1960s simply for what they thought and said.

Other evidence that the U.S. government is headed toward McCarthyism are the indictments of leaders of the Black is Back Coalition for their opposition to NATO's role in Ukraine -- charging them with "distributing Russian propaganda."

The New York Times, a media conglomerate that gives propaganda support to each U.S. war -- remember Judith Miller's hack job on Iraq building up to the 2003 invasion -- published a front-page article insinuating that Code Pink, The People's Forum and Tricontinental are agents of China. Why? Because these groups campaign to say: "No to a New Cold War." This article's signers support this campaign - 100%. Senator Marco Rubio

has called for the Department of Justice to investigate these antiwar activists. Wittner's article comes across as another desperate effort to silence opposition as the U.S. and NATO march closer to war with Russia and China.

Wittner wrote, "Sara Flounders, a leader of the International Action Center and the United National Antiwar Coalition, two of the largest campist organizations in the United States, lovingly depicted a recent BRICS summit as devoted to 'building an open world economy that . . . promotes cooperation.' She contrasted this with a summit of the Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain, and the United States)— 'the countries responsible for the looting and colonization of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. They owe reparations for the genocide of Indigenous peoples, the enslavement of African people, and the devastating world wars of the 20th century.' Naturally, 'this summit of the most powerful and wealthiest imperialist powers was focused on how to intensify sanctions on Russia and how to continue the war in Ukraine.' Behind them stood NATO, 'the U.S. commanded military alliance that serves as a global enforcer of U.S. corporate power.'"

Flounders stands behind what she wrote. Completely.

Wittner uses polls, Congressional votes and U.N. votes -- all promoted by U.S. power -- to claim support for the current U.S./NATO war in Ukraine. Similar "evidence" was utilized to justify U.S. wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia and Libya. Support evaporated as the wars dragged on. Already a CNN poll (Aug. 4) confirms the majority of the U.S. population is opposed to additional funding to Ukraine. But Biden is demanding another \$24 billion for the Kiev government.

Wittner writes that we "focused criticism on the U.S. government, NATO and Ukraine." Yes! We in UNAC do focus our work on stopping U.S. wars. For example, we explain that NATO is a U.S.-commanded, U.S.-equipped military alliance. NATO trainers, advisors and equipment have been deployed in Ukraine since a U.S.-supported coup in Kiev in 2014 overthrew the elected Ukrainian government.

Through NATO, Washington built up the small Ukrainian military to be bigger than nearly any of the NATO member countries. It is Washington that pushed NATO expansion to the borders of Russia, after the fall of the Soviet Union. For what purpose? According to numerous official U.S. statements and articles, it was to destroy Russia. But if we say this, we are falsely accused of being controlled by Russia or China.

What we are. What we need.

UNAC is an antiwar coalition based in the U.S, and it is the U.S. that has been responsible for most of the military aggressions since WWII. This is still the only country to use nuclear weapons and still threatens to use them.

Millions of lives were lost in past U.S. wars. Trillions of dollars, with bipartisan support, goes directly to U.S. military contractors, a steady stream of guaranteed profits. When those who want social services observe that the United States is the only industrialized country without free medical care, free university education, crumbling infrastructure and with millions of people who are unhoused and desperate, they should consider this waste of wealth. Shouldn't we address these burning issues?

The world needs an antiwar movement willing to consistently speak out and mobilize

opposition among poor and working people when it is most difficult and unpopular to resist the endless U.S. wars. In the U.S., we need to oppose the devastating impact of 800 U.S. military bases around the world and a military budget 40% of the world's total. We need to address the illegal and inhuman U.S. sanctions on 40 countries, comprising a third of the world population.

But most important is that we need an antiwar movement that always links these endless U.S. wars to the war here at home. The racist repression, the world's largest prison population and three police killings a day, every day, widening attacks on migrants, LGBTQ+ and others, are the outgrowth of U.S. wars.

We are determined to continue to oppose U.S. wars and demand that the hundreds of billions of dollars of the military budget that benefits corporate power in the U.S. be spent on people's needs.

We are actively building, with many others, for nationally coordinated days of opposition to the U.S./NATO war in Ukraine – Sept 30 to Oct. 7 in more than 100 U.S. cities.

Contact UNACpeace.org for information on past and upcoming antiwar actions.

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